THE GRAHAM FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

The Graham School
The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University
Graham Elementary and Middle School

Health Education Policy
(Parental Involvement Policy)

Approved by the GEMS, TCS & TGS Boards 6/26/25
Reviewed by the GEMS, TCS & TGS Boards 8/18/25

The Graham Family of Schools' Boards are committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program as an integral part of each student's general education. At a minimum, the health education programs meet the requirements established by State law and include instruction in nutrition; drugs, alcohol and tobacco; including electronic smoking devices; venereal disease; annual developmentally appropriate child sexual abuse prevention (grades K-6); personal safety and assault prevention (grades K-6); developmentally appropriate and dating violence prevention and sexual violence prevention (grades 7-12); prescription opioid abuse prevention and anatomical gifts (organ and tissue donation).

The Schools provide at least one hour or one standard class period per year for each of the following to students in grades 6-12: evidence-based suicide awareness and prevention; safety training and violence prevention and evidence based social inclusion instruction. The Schools may utilize student assemblies, digital learning and homework to satisfy these requirements.

The school or any third party acting on behalf of the school shall not provide instruction that includes sexuality content to students in grades kindergarten through three. "Sexuality content" means any oral or written instruction, presentation, image, or description of sexual concepts or gender ideology provided in a classroom setting.

The Schools comply with all statutory requirements for curriculum and materials used for instruction, parental notice, right to review materials and any applicable parental opt-out provisions provided under State law. Notice to parents shall reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children, and that the school district shall not inhibit parental access to the student's education and health records maintained by the school.

Prompt parental notice will be given regarding any substantial change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student.

School personnel are prohibited from directly or indirectly encouraging a student to withhold from a parent information concerning the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being, or a change in related services or monitoring. School personnel are also prohibited from discouraging or prohibiting parental notification of and involvement in decisions affecting a student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.

The School will obtain authorization from parents prior to providing any type of health care service to the student, including physical, mental, and behavioral health care services. Under the procedure, a parent may choose whether to authorize the school to provide a health care service to the parent's child. The procedure shall require the school to do both of the following:

(a) At the beginning of the school year, notify parents of each health care service offered at, or facilitated in cooperation with, their student's school and their option to withhold consent or decline any specified service. Parental consent to health care services does not waive the parent's right to access the parent's student's educational or health records or to be notified about a change in the student's services or monitoring as provided in this section.

(b) Prior to providing a health care service to a student, notify a parent whether the service is required to be provided by the school district under state law and if other options for a student to access the service exist. This requirement may be satisfied by an annual notice to parents at the beginning of the school year. This requirement does not apply to emergency situations, first aid, other unanticipated minor health care services, or health care services provided pursuant to a student's IEP or the school's obligation under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

The parent may file with a school dean a written concern regarding a topic addressed in this policy. The school will attempt to resolve such concerns within thirty days after their receipt. Under the policy, the school shall notify parents of their right to file a written concern. A parent may appeal a dean's decision to the superintendent of the school.

If a parent appeals the dean's decision, the superintendent, or a designee of the superintendent, shall conduct a hearing on the decision. Based on the findings of that hearing, the superintendent shall decide whether to affirm the dean's decision. If the superintendent does not affirm the decision, the superintendent shall determine a resolution to the parent's concern. A parent may appeal the superintendent's decision to the Board of Directors of the school. The board shall review the superintendent's decision and, if the board determines it necessary, hold a hearing on the decision and, based on that hearing, either affirm the superintendent's decision or determine a new resolution to the parent's concern.

The Boards believe that public schools have an appropriate opportunity to facilitate effective health education because of the opportunity to reach almost all students at an age when positive, lifelong health, wellness and safety habits may be instilled.

This board approved policy will be posted on the schools' publicly accessible web sites.

Legal
ORC 3313.473
ORC 3313.60
ORC 3313.666
ORC 3319.073
OAC 3301-35-04
OAC 3301-35-06